

United States Court of Appeals  
Tenth Circuit

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

July 22, 2016

FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

Elisabeth A. Shumaker  
Clerk of Court

In re: AARON EUGENE COPELAND,  
  
Movant.

No. 16-5075  
(D.C. Nos. 4:12-CV-00101-CVE-TLW &  
4:08-CR-00137-CVE-1)  
(N.D. Okla.)

ORDER

Before **KELLY, HARTZ**, and **MATHESON**, Circuit Judges.

Movant Aaron Eugene Copeland, a federal prisoner proceeding pro se, seeks an order authorizing him to file a second or successive 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion in the district court so he may assert a claim for relief based on *Johnson v. United States*, 135 S. Ct. 2551 (2015). *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 2255(h), 2244(b)(3). In 2008, Movant was convicted of a firearms offense in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g). He alleges that his sentence for that offense was enhanced under the Armed Career Criminal Act (ACCA) based on his having three qualifying prior convictions, *see* 18 U.S.C. § 924(e)(1), at least one of which was a violent felony. Movant now seeks to file a § 2255 motion challenging his enhanced sentence based on the Supreme Court’s opinion in *Johnson*, which invalidated the residual clause in the ACCA’s definition of “violent felony” as unconstitutionally vague.

To obtain authorization, Movant must make a prima facie showing that his claim meets the gatekeeping requirements of § 2255(h). *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(C).

Relevant here is the requirement that the claim rely on “a new rule of constitutional law, made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court, that was previously unavailable,” 28 U.S.C. § 2255(h)(2). Based on the information before us, we conclude that the Movant has made the required showing. *Johnson* announced a new rule of constitutional law, and the Supreme Court made *Johnson* retroactive to cases on collateral review in *Welch v. United States*, 136 S. Ct. 1257, 1265 (2016).

Accordingly, we grant Aaron Eugene Copeland authorization to file a second or successive § 2255 motion in district court to raise a claim based on *Johnson v. United States*. In the interest of justice, we direct the Clerk to transfer the now-authorized successive § 2255 motion to the district court for the Northern District of Oklahoma pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1631. The filing date of the authorized successive § 2255 motion is June 13, 2016, which is the date the motion for authorization was filed in this court. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1631. Movant’s request for counsel, construed as a motion for appointment of counsel, is denied as moot.

Entered for the Court

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elisabeth A. Shumaker", followed by a horizontal flourish line.

ELISABETH A. SHUMAKER, Clerk